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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/768,442	01/30/2004	S. Brandon Keller	200310172-1	8929
22879	7590	03/24/2006	EXAMINER	
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			GARBOWSKI, LEIGH M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2825	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EP

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/768,442	Applicant(s) KELLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Leigh Marie Garbowski	Art Unit 2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/30/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: elements 220 and 222 in paragraph [0025]; and elements 306, 214(1), 214(2), 216(1), 216(2) in paragraph [0026]. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the Attorney Docket Nos. in paragraph [0001] should be deleted and updated with Application and/or Patent Numbers; also, there appears to be a discrepancy regarding what "design elements" are, paragraph [0002] defines design elements as capacitors, transistors, resistors, etc., yet paragraph [0020] defines design elements as signal nets; furthermore, it is not quite clear what "configuration elements" are, there seems to be a relationship between design elements and configuration elements such that configuration elements are stored within design elements, see figure 1 for example, however, what these separate terms are intended to mean and how they are intended to interact is somewhat confusing.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following rejection is based upon the examiner's best interpretation of the claims in view of the objection to the specification given above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hunt et al. [U.S. Patent #6,826,732 B2].

As per claim 1, a method for processing configuration information, comprising: identifying one or more configuration elements from one or more configuration commands [column 9, lines 32-54; column 10, lines 15-34; column 15, lines 43-50]; associating the configuration elements with design elements of an electronic circuit design [column 7, line 7-column column 8, line 26; column 10, lines 15-34]; retrieving each configuration elements for at least one design element [column 7, line 7-column column 8, line 26; column 10, lines 15-34; column 15, lines 43-50]. As per claim 2, the step of associating comprising generating one or more data structures containing configuration elements and then storing the data structures with their associated design elements in a hierarchical model of the electronic circuit design [column 7, line 7-column column 9, line 15; column 10, lines 15-34; column 15, lines 43-65; column 29, lines 27-32]. As per claim 3, further comprising traversing the hierarchical model and, for each design element, storing, in a database, each configuration element associated with the design element [column 15, lines 43-65; column 29, lines 27-32]. As per claim 4, the step of retrieving comprising specifying a design element to retrieve associated configuration elements [column 18, line 61-column 19, line 37]. As per claim 5, the step of associating comprising storing the identified configuration elements and associated design elements on a design element by design element basis in a database [column 7, lines 43-50column 29, lines 27-32, 49-51]. As per claim 6, the design element comprising an equivalent of an HLSN [column 15, lines 43-65; column 16, lines 22-23; column 25, lines 55-56]. As per claims 7-18, Hunt et al. disclose a method as well as a

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system and software product for implementing and/or using etc. the method [figure 1; column 66, lines 5-28].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leigh Marie Garbowski whose telephone number is 571-272-1893 and e-mail is Leigh.Garbowski@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


LEIGH M. GARBOWSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER